

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A card printing system, comprising:
  - a cartridge sub-assembly, wherein said cartridge sub-assembly encloses a plurality of cards, wherein said plurality of cards have been previously plied with a plurality of photosensitive microcapsules; and
  - a printer sub-assembly, wherein said printer sub-assembly interfaces with said cartridge sub-assembly to obtain one of said plurality of cards, wherein said printer sub-assembly forms a latent image upon the photosensitive microcapsules of the obtained card, and wherein said printer sub-assembly develops said latent image by applying mechanical pressure to said photosensitive microcapsules with a developer array.
2. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein both said cartridge sub-assembly and said printer sub-assembly are substantially completely light-sealed, and wherein both said cartridge sub-assembly and said printer sub-assembly maintain said the light-seal upon interfacing.
3. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of cards are presented in a horizontal stack.
4. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer sub-assembly develops said latent image by applying mechanical pressure to said photosensitive microcapsules with a developer array in a single scan or a double scan of said developer array.

5. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein said developer array comprises a plurality of spring-loaded developer balls.
6. The card printing system of claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of spring-loaded developer balls applies a pressure at a contact point of each of said plurality of spring-loaded developer balls that is appropriate to a media of the card.
7. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer sub-assembly further comprises a heated roller.
8. The card printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer sub-assembly forms said latent image by backlighting an LCD panel containing an image.
9. A card printing system, comprising:
  - supply means for supplying a plurality of media cards, wherein each of said plurality of media cards have been plied with a plurality of photosensitive microcapsules;
  - printing means for receiving one of said plurality of media cards, for forming a latent image upon the one card, and for applying an array of pressure points to said latent image for developing said latent image.
10. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein both said supply means and said printing means are light-sealed, and wherein both said supply means and said printing means maintain the

light-seal upon said printing means receiving one of said plurality of media cards from said supply means.

11. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein said plurality of media cards are in the configuration of a horizontal stack.

12. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein said printing means develops said latent image in a single or a double application of said array of pressure points.

13. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein said array of pressure points is provided by a plurality of spring-loaded developer balls.

14. The card printing system of claim 13, wherein the pressure applied is selected appropriate to the media of the media card.

15. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein said printing means further includes a heating means for speeding development of said latent image.

16. The card printing system of claim 9, wherein said printing means further includes a light means for forming said latent image by backlighting an LCD panel containing an image.

17. A method of printing an identification card, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying an identification card that has been previously plied with a plurality of photosensitive microcapsules;

forming a latent image upon said identification card;

developing said latent image by application of an array of pressure points to said latent image.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of maintaining a light-seal about said identification card during said steps of supplying, forming, and developing.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of supplying an identification card comprises supplying a plurality of identification cards in a horizontal stack.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said latent image is developed in one or two applications of said array of pressure points to said latent image.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein said array of pressure points is provided by a plurality of spring-loaded developer balls.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the pressure applied is selected appropriate to the media of said identification card.

23. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of heating said for speeding development.

24. The method of claim 17, the step of forming a latent image upon said identification card is achieved by backlighting an LCD panel containing an image.

25. A card printing system, comprising:

a cartridge sub-assembly, wherein said cartridge sub-assembly encloses a plurality of cards, wherein said plurality of cards have been previously plied with a plurality of photosensitive microcapsules; and

a printer sub-assembly, wherein said printer sub-assembly interfaces with said cartridge sub-assembly to obtain one of said plurality of cards, wherein said printer sub-assembly forms a latent image upon the photosensitive microcapsules of the obtained card, and wherein said printer sub-assembly develops said latent image by applying mechanical pressure to said photosensitive microcapsules with a roller array.

26. The card printing system of claim 25, wherein said roller array comprises a plurality of roller segments.

27. A card printing system, comprising:

a cartridge sub-assembly, wherein said cartridge sub-assembly encloses a plurality of cards, wherein said plurality of cards have been previously plied with a plurality of photosensitive microcapsules; and

a printer sub-assembly, wherein said printer sub-assembly interfaces with said cartridge sub-assembly to obtain one of said plurality of cards, wherein said printer sub-assembly forms a latent image upon the photosensitive microcapsules of the obtained card, and wherein said printer sub-assembly develops said latent image by applying mechanical pressure to said photosensitive microcapsules with a single developer roll.